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Interviewer: Kathleen Irving

Transcriber: Kathleen Irving

Kathleen Irving (KI): This is Kathi Irving. I'm with Dr. Jim Allen in his office in Vernal today, 2 June 2004.

I would like you to start by telling me where you were born, and the names of your parents and siblings.

Jim: I was born in Phoenix, Arizona, on the 26 February 1943. At that time we resided at 826 North 11th Avenue in Phoenix, which is now under a freeway. My childhood neighborhood was urban, poor-folk type, just like everyone else was right after and during the end of the war. Encanto Park was about a half mile away. It was a golf course and lagoons and park area that everybody went to to recreate because in those days there wasn't any TV, of course. You listened to the radio at night. I spent a lot of my childhood hours there, fishing.

KI: Did your dad serve in the war?

Jim: My father was drafted. He went to Fort Huachuca. He fractured his ankle and got appendicitis. Those two incidents sort of ended his military service. He was mustered out because of the ankle. So, he went through the training, but he didn't get to go.

KI: Where was Fort Huachuca?

Jim: Fort Huachuca was in Arizona and right now that's where they train the interrogators. You've heard the term Fort Huachuca mentioned a lot on National Public Radio recently because that's where the training of military interrogators goes on these days.

KI: What was his profession? Was he in law enforcement?

Jim: Yes. He had a grandfather by the name of Hyrum McDonald. They called him Cap Hy because he was quite a character. There is quite a bit written about him in the historical annals of Arizona. He was the first chief of police of Phoenix and he had somewhat of a colorful career down there. His daughter married a man named Collins, who had three boys, four girls, then died. Then she married a man named Allen, who was my grandfather, my father's father. Then he died. I didn't know any of my grandparents, they all passed away but one, and that one died within my first year of life.

So, my father had somewhat of a history of law enforcement there in the local area, so he went into the Border Patrol after his military service. He was then moved, his official title was Special Criminal Investigator for the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, which really meant he was the federal Indian cop. We lived on reservations from then on for the rest of our duration.

KI: I found a document that said that he was the first territorial sheriff in the area.

Jim: That was Cap Hy. That was my father's grandfather. I don't know if that's true because I've done some research. He was the *jailer*, one of the first jailers there in Phoenix. I don't know if he

was the marshal. He was the jailer under a very good sheriff. This guy, I can't remember his name now, but he went clear down into Chihuahua to retrieve a bandit called "the Slasher" one time and brought him all the way back to Phoenix on his own.

KI: I had a hard time believing that *your* father could be that old.

Jim: No. That was his grandfather.

KI: Then, it said your mother was the first woman doctor. Is that accurate?

Jim: No, not my mother. My mother was in nursing. I had a step-grandmother. My mother was orphaned. She was born in a little town outside of Little Rock, Arkansas. She was a Cowan. Her father was a World War I veteran who was disabled with mustard gas. Her mother was a Hill and the Hills came out of Missouri. There were a lot of Hills in the Civil War. In fact, there was a famous general; I don't know if we were related. But at any rate, they came to Arizona because of his pulmonary condition. They are both buried, my grandparents, in Prescott. So, they came in there.

But my mother, her mother worked hard. She actually worked in the hospital there. Of course, she had a disabled husband, so things weren't easy, but she had my mother. My mother was the oldest; she lost some children through miscarriage, then she had a set of twins, my Aunt Rena and my Aunt Trina. Then she became pregnant again and that child was lost and she died of a pulmonary embolus, secondary to the old "milk leg," which is deep vein thrombosis, of course, when my mother was eight years old. The twins were six.

So, my grandfather then made arrangements for a double funeral. I don't know how he did it, but he laid down and died and they were both buried. Then the twins and my mother were put under the care of a family called the Coffees, there in Prescott. Then they got kicked from pillar to post from then on. She spent time in a Catholic girls' home because there was no other place. Then, finally, she was adopted by this woman to which you may be referring. Her name was Tole and she was a practitioner in Tombstone, Arizona, when all the big ruckus was going on down there. She was very elderly. I knew her before she passed away. She passed away in the Prescott Pioneer Home in her early hundreds, Grandma Tole did. So, she was there when Wyatt Earp and all those people were rousting around.

KI: Okay, now we can go back to you and your dad and your family running around on Indian reservations.

Jim: Right. We were transferred first to Parker, Arizona, Colorado River Indian Reservation. Got there right after Ira Hayes died. In fact, I'm not sure but what Dad was the first federal officer in there. I'm not sure of that. We were there four years; in those days the government transferred you every four years. We were then transferred to Fort Duchesne with the Utes. My oldest brother, Charles, stayed because he was a senior in high school. He stayed in Parker to finish his senior year. He stayed with Mr. Patton, who was the vo-ag teacher, a good friend. Once he graduated there, he went into Phoenix Jr. College for two years, and then he went to Flagstaff for two years, got his teaching certificate. Since then he's been an educator in a little place called Los Serranos, California, just outside of Chino, the southern L.A. area. He loved herpetology and he is also a very good artist. He's gifted with that. He's still living and is going to come up here and see me this summer. I haven't seen Charles in several years.

KI: And you came here with your family.

Jim: Right. In fact, there will be a half-Pawnee, half-Mojave gentleman that we grew up with that will come up to the reunion, too, because he was like family. My mother always took in people that lived with us at times. Being an orphan, I guess, and then you did that in those days. There wasn't poor folks homes, you know. We lived with Mr. Bradley, who was a consumptive. We had all kinds of people in our home all the time.

KI: When you were on these reservations, where were you educated?

Jim: Well, I went my freshman year at NYCHS, Northern Yuma County High School. Then I did three years at Union in Roosevelt, then went on to Utah State for four years. I graduated from Union.

KI: Did they bus you in?

Jim: Yeah, from Fort Duchesne, they bused us in.

KI: Did the Indians come with you?

Jim: Well, sure. All my good friends are Indians. I grew up with Indians, I dated Indians, I fell in love with Indians, and got my heart broke by Indians! I have a lot of old girlfriends and friends.

KI: Well, you know, about that time period they were sending Indians off the reservation to Indian boarding schools.

Jim: Still were. Brigham City was still going strong. I think Whiterocks had gone down. See, that happened in '56, was when they broke that. They said, "Look, we're going to let these people get back to their original roots and their pride and their heritage." Before that they were trying to brainwash them all. I can't remember the guy's name, that made the motion in Congress that finally got that hideous, what do you call it, where you totally try to strip a person of their identity and heritage. That changed in '56, so we got here two years after that. So, the Whiterocks School had closed by then. The Navajos were still coming up, but eventually all that went back, I think, for the better.

KI: What did you like to do in high school?

Jim: Well, you know, Arizona had a very good school system, so when I came up, Union didn't have a lot to offer me that I hadn't already had. So, I had a real good time for three years. Then when I went to Utah State, I was way behind, so I had to work very hard.

My classmates, at Utah State, were Dr. Larry Wilkins, Clark Nebeker, Terry Bastian, and Jim Drollinger. There was a group of us that went to Utah State, quite a bunch.

KI: You studied what there?

Jim: I started in pre-vet. I never was in pre-med. I applied for vet school on the WICHE program [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education], which is an exchange program, because Utah doesn't have a veterinarian college, and you either went to Pullman, Washington, or you went to Colorado State. I think Davis Irvine kind of participated in that, too. I was asked, or given advice by an advisor, to apply to medical school at the same time, and I applied to the University of Utah. I got accepted there before word came back from the WICHE program. They would take so many students and exchange them, like they might have someone in Oregon that

needed what we have and vice versa, so we would give them so many slots in the schools. It was very competitive. It was harder to get into veterinary college than medical school. Medical school wasn't easy. In those days the matriculations were limited. They used to accept twice as many as they were going to keep and then winnow them out after the first year. Mine was the first class they didn't do that.

KI: What year did you graduate from USU?

Jim: From USU, I graduated in '65.

KI: Then you went to medical school for four years?

Jim: Yeah, and graduated in '69. There were eight hundred applicants, I think, for the sixty-three slots at the U. But then you have to consider, I just did it on a whim. A lot of them were applying to ten colleges. So, that doesn't really mean that were 732 that walked away discouraged. They probably got accepted, some of them, in other places.

KI: When did you decide this was what you really wanted to do?

Jim: Well, I had a hard time with that because, really, all I've ever wanted to be, and still want to be, is just a cowboy. I never wanted to get into this. Ever since I went down to the Strand Theater for the matinee every Saturday and saw Gene and Roy and Hoppy, that's what I've wanted to be, all my life.

But I figured out that I couldn't do that without money, so I thought I'd go into BLM, or range management or something, and I get up there and my advisor says, "Well, take the higher level math and take the higher level chemistry because it will keep the doors open for you." So, I did that. Then I got to looking, and I thought, well veterinary looked good. So, I changed into vet and I worked there in the vet lab for three years trying to make money. Then Dixie and I were married when I was a junior, so we were there, my last year, her first year in college.

KI: As long as you've brought Dixie up, what is her maiden name?

Jim: Bristol. She's the daughter of Bernis Charles Bristol and Sylvia Bates Bristol. Sylvia is related to all the Bateses in Kamas and Heber and all that country.

KI: Did you meet Dixie at school?

Jim: Actually, no. Dixie's a very, as you know, heads-up lady, and she had taken correspondence courses on her own at Altamont. She was an Altamont cheerleader when I met her. She was a junior in high school, and I was, of course, a junior in college, there was a four-year difference, actually, it's three and a half, difference in our ages. I was actually managing the Roosevelt swimming pool at that time.

KI: A summer job?

Jim: Yeah, I had a WSI, a water safety instructor, certificate from Red Cross, so I trained lifeguards and ran the pool. She brought her little brother down to swim one day and I saw her and got fixed up with her on a date and went out and that was it.

We were going to go another year, but my folks got transferred to the next reservation, which was the Quinaults, up in Washington. Every kid got left on a reservation, so this one was mine. So, we had to move the wedding up from what we had planned a year.

So, we talked to her principal because all she lacked for graduation was one credit of English. She'd passed everything else already. So, she was dropping out of high school into college. She carried a full course at Utah State, and her English wasn't bonehead English, it was advanced English and she took it and passed it fine. Then we went back to let her graduate with her class. By then they'd changed principals and the dysfunctional person they had in there then said he was going to teach these kids not to drop out of high school so he would not allow her to graduate, even though she had a year's worth of college credit. It was totally idiotic, but that was in the days when concurrent enrollment didn't exist.

So, she never graduated from high school. Dixie doesn't have a high school [diploma]. She never gets invited to her reunions. It was horrible. At the time I thought, as her husband, "Well, you're nuts. Why worry about high school? This is high school. You're going to college." She's got a Master's and all. But I was stupid, I didn't realize what those things meant. Especially where she was a cheerleader and all that. So, because of one individual's idiocy, she's not been able... But it's been good in a way because she really can empathize with kids, you know, in today's arena with their degrees and stuff.

KI: We might note, just for the record here, that Dixie is the principal at Uintah High School, and has been a principal.

Jim: She's been at every level. She's been in the district office and run the K through 8 program there. She's been in the classroom at grade levels two, five and, of course, she's principal at the high school, so she's had all those levels. She's also served at the state level in leadership positions at the principals' academy and she's presently a member of the state board of education. I don't know as you can get much more experience at all the levels of education that Dixie's had. I doubt there's many individuals that have been through all those layers. So, she has a very good understanding of public education. And because of her high school thing that I was just mentioning, she empathizes with the kids and knows the problems they have. It's good. That's why she's as good as she is and as sharp as she is, part of it.

KI: So, after you graduated from medical school, you did your internship in Washington?

Jim: Yes, I went to Virginia Mason. I looked at a lot of internships. I wanted to be a family practitioner and in those days, that was rare. In those days it was the Ben Casey [a television drama] era when everybody was supposed to be a super-specialist, you know, and be angry and slam things. God walked into the room when Ben Casey walked into the room, Dr. Zorba and all that. So, when myself and one other classmate said we wanted to be in general practice—they didn't have family practice then—we were sort of outcast. We looked around for what we called rotating internships, because a rotating internship was a general, you got everything. You either went into pre-surgery, or you went into internal medicine, or you went into a rotating. Then after that first year, you went on into whatever, if you were in internal medicine or surgery.

So, I took probably one of the best rotating internships in the nation. I had been in the county system because Salt Lake County Hospital was still operating and we went down there for part of our learning. I'd been in the VA system, because the VA Hospital was there. I'd been in the university system because it was there. I'd had some preceptor ships in private offices. So, I wanted to see what a good private outfit was like.

At that time Virginia Mason, in Seattle, was the shortest-stay hospital in the nation. In other words, they moved the patient in and out. They had a two hundred-and-some-odd doctor

clinic adjoined to the hospital. It was a big hospital. There was King County, Harborview, Swedish, Providence and Virginia Mason were the hospitals in the Seattle area, and you rotated through most of those. So, I went up there. Plus, they paid \$8,000 a year, which was the highest intern salary in the nation at the time, which didn't hurt. But it was an excellent learning experience.

KI: How long were you there?

Jim: One year. Then I was offered a position in the surgery program by Dr. Hugh Lawrence. He called me in and asked me. He said I had a natural bent to be a surgeon. "But," I said, "Dr. Lawrence, that's four years. You could teach me in two years what would take four, to be honest." He said, "Certainly, you're right. You'd have to be my lackey and my slave for two years, arranging conferences and yada and yada, yada." And I said, "Well, two years of my life, Dr. Lawrence, it isn't worth it." I left. I went into Indian Health Service because I'd been drafted to Vietnam.

All my brothers were drafted by Mrs. Cutshaw. We all got drafted. Two went to Fort Dix. One brother went on to Carson City, he was a second lieutenant. It was over in Colorado somewhere. He went over into the Delta region. My older brother mustered out of Fort Dix for a medical problem, I can't remember what, and then I was drafted and did my induction physical at Fort McNary in Seattle.

Then I was asked by the Indian Health Service to go to Tanana, Alaska, to take care of the Indians up there rather than go to Vietnam. I said okay. Then at the last minute they said, "No, we're going to send you to Aberdeen, North Dakota." I said, "No. I'll go to Vietnam before I'll go to Aberdeen." So, I was en route to go to Vietnam again, and then I got the call, "Well, how would you like to go back home to Fort Duchesne because you know the people there and they're your friends and stuff and you'd be wonderful for them there." At that point I had Cassie and another one on the way, so, I decided I'd go to Fort Duchesne. So, that's where I did my military service. I was there for two years. I lived in Fort Duchesne.

By then they'd moved the hospital. I was the first doctor, when they'd moved the Indian Health Hospital. We had a hospital and beds and everything there, when I was there in '58. Dr. Stringham used to come out and make rounds.

KI: You were there in '58 with your family [his birth family]?

Jim: Yes, that's when we moved to Fort Duchesne.

KI: So, you knew Dr. Stringham and he's still here?

Jim: Yeah, he was my doctor when I was a boy. He and Dr. Larsen. I was actually treated here by Drs. Christian, Spendlove and Seager when I was in college. I got brain fever, equine encephalitis and they treated me here.

KI: You got equine encephalitis? From your horse?

Jim: A mosquito bite! But it had bitten a horse, I'm sure. Well, birds are the host reservoir, they kind of sit there. The mosquito bites the horse and bites the bird and eventually I got bitten. You'd get a few cases in those days. I remember a classmate of mine in high school had the same thing. I got it my freshman year in college.

KI: So, were they able to treat it pretty quickly or did you have to suffer?

Jim: No, it was pretty primitive in those days. You just laid around with a high fever for about a week until you got over it.

KI: Oh, it only lasted about a week?

Jim: Yeah. I was in the hospital here for a week before the fever finally broke. It was high, 105°, 104°. Miserable, ache everywhere. But I got to meet all the doctors.

KI: When you were over there in Fort Duchesne, did Dr. Stringham encourage you to come back and practice here?

Jim: No, actually, there was another doctor there, Dr. Griesenbeck, who I babysat for. Dr. Dick Griesenbeck, a very nice man, played the violin beautifully. They came back and saw me this year, just a few months ago. They had retired, because he went down into Cottonwood, Arizona, just below Sedona. When he heard I was in medical school, he had said, "Come join me." Which, if I had done, think how rich I'd be now. I would have got my ranch in Sedona and all that real estate went sky high and I'd be retired somewhere as a billionaire, and instead I came here and bought ground in the Basin.

Then, of course, Paul and Jean [Stringham], when they knew I was going to be a rural family [doctor], then, yeah, they recruited me. While I was in Indian Health Service I'd come over on weekends and cover for Paul. Then he and Jean took three trips a year, so I used my vacation time to cover for them over here and built up a practice and stuff. I was a workaholic and that was not good. I should have played more.

KI: Where was your office when you first came over?

Jim: Actually, they built a little clinic on the end of the building there that Paul and Jean had built, that now has the sleep apnea and all that [in it], it's there by that CPA firm [38 East 100 North], in that little row, a little yellow brick building? I was there seventeen years in a little office on the end.

KI: So, you practiced there for seventeen years and you've just been practicing since?

Jim: Ever since. I came over on the weekends. I actually probably practiced a total of three months every year over here in the years '71 and '72, then I moved over here permanently in '72. I was there seventeen years, then came into this building [175 North 100 West].

KI: Do you do surgery now?

Jim: Oh, yeah.

KI: At what point did you pick up surgery?

Jim: Well, in the rotating internship, I did a lot of surgery, because there you could work as hard as you wanted to, and I really worked hard because I wanted to learn a lot. Medicine was different in those days. In fact, Medicare and Medicaid just started to come into force then. When I came in with Paul, my office call was \$8 and you delivered and took care of and vaccinated a baby for \$110, and I made more money then than I've ever made since, because people really wanted to pay you. They'd bring you chickens and grain. I had one poor man who

brought me firewood and I didn't have a fireplace. But he stacked cord after cord after cord of firewood. I said, "Please, don't bring any more firewood." But they wanted to pay their debts. There were no goldbricks; it didn't seem like, in those days. And they could afford to pay then, you know? The price wasn't so prohibitive.

KI: Can you think of any interesting cases or interesting medical situations that you've had over the years that really stick in your mind?

Jim: Oh, yeah, lots of them. I remember delivering a baby in the back of a Ford Mustang, doing eighty-five miles an hour. In those days we had an OB kit and I got the call that there was this lady in Randlett that was having this baby, which was what we call a double footing breech, which is a very dangerous presentation. So, I grabbed the pack and was rushing towards Randlett and they were rushing towards me and we met about halfway between. I jumped in the car and delivered this baby on the way to the hospital.

KI: Did they name the baby after you?

Jim: No, but we did have a baby we named Sputnik over there because it was delivered in the toilet. The mother got up and thought, you know, and splash down! And that's when Sputnik splashed down, so that baby was named. It really had the name Sputnik. I won't say what the rest of the name was.

KI: I spoke with Dr. Seager at length, he told me that when he came here, which was quite a long time before you did, industrial medicine was just pitiful. Did you ever see really bad accidents out of the oil fields or from mining?

Jim: Yes, I saw cases that would have survived today, but didn't then just because of the way they were handled. You understand, in my training in Seattle, a soldier could be evacuated out of the deepest jungle in Vietnam to a MASH unit quicker than we could get somebody off the freeway in Seattle into a hospital. That's really when medical transport started to be utilized in the United States. We learned a lot through those air transport MASH units. That was new stuff and we began to apply it in health care in the United States.

I remember many times flying with John Gardner in a single engine in storms trying to get a patient to Salt Lake; you'd just go with them. You'd load them in the plane, call John or whoever was there and away you'd go. One time we circled for forty-five minutes trying to find a hole in the clouds to get down into Salt Lake. We found the hole over Heber, then went down, just followed the highway in.

When I got here, it was still kind of primitive. We had an ambulance that served as a hearse and that was it. It was pretty primitive here compared to other places. When I walked in here, I was used to some technology, like we had the first respirator up there. Dr. Lawrence was the first one to do open heart in Seattle and I was on his team. We had a respirator called an MA-1, which was the first automatic respirator. Things like that, and I was used to that. When I got here, there was none of that. You had a part-time lab. Helen Allred was the lab tech, bless her heart. She would come in. But the only lab you had available to you was just a glucose and a blood type and hematocrit and white count. You didn't have any of the capabilities you do now.

Your blood bank was a list of names on the wall and Woody Searle's was on the top, so he got called I don't know how many times. Woody gave a *lot* of blood. But, you'd just call them in. I gave blood myself at times when I had a patient. I had one lady in DIC [disseminated intravascular coagulopathy] where I just needed fresh blood fast and I'm a universal donor. We

jerked it out of me and put it in her. She's still alive. It corrected the condition. She was hemorrhaging to death.

I remember we gave anesthesia for each other. We operated and we helped each other, we were always together on our surgery and we interchanged with Roosevelt that way. I'd drive over there and they'd drive over here and vice versa. We'd help each other. We'd get a call; we'd go help each other. It was a different world then.

KI: This hospital was already built here then, wasn't it?

Jim: The old hospital was here, on this lot. There is still a segment of it left. That's what was here. That was built, I think, with Hill-Burton funds in '47 or '46 or something like that.

KI: It was built with gambling funds, wasn't it?

Jim: Well, I know, but you had to match the Hill-Burton funds and that's the way our community did it.

KI: It was an inventive way to do it.

Jim: Yes, it was. When I got here, Dr. Christian was an amazing man because he could read electrocardiograms as good as anybody I'd ever seen. He could give anesthesia. We all went out and took courses at the University [of Utah] on anesthesia. You'd go out every week and learn anesthesia. These specialists would occasionally come out and help you because they didn't want your referrals. They were too busy doing "real" specialty work because every physician did the bread and butter stuff, hysterectomies, tonsillectomies, gallbladders, you know, hernias, hemorrhoids. You did the routine stuff.

I did amputations, I cut legs off, I did lots of stuff you wouldn't think of doing today. I put screws in ankles, took care of fractures and stuff that now, you wouldn't do that. You've got too many good specialists to do it for you. But with that you had the sacrifice of holistic medicine. You've got a right toe man, a left toe man, that's it, don't bother me about the rest of the body. I just take care of the toe!

So, it's nice to see that reversal. See, that came with the Dr. Kildare [another TV drama] era. Then I was in the mainstream and I think it's still that way, but we really have a dilemma here in Utah that we can't recruit. See, the thing's shifted so much now, physicians couldn't get it done, the county couldn't get it done, local governments couldn't do it, federal government certainly couldn't do it, they did what they usually do. So, then you had the privatization of medicine and that's not working either. I mean, it is for the people that have got the money, you know that. But when you've got better than forty percent of your population uninsured... You know, I have patients at this moment that are suffering and some dying. You've got to cut down because you can't afford your medications, you can't afford health care. They don't come in for it. It's not the doctors. We have the lowest reimbursement rate. There's only one state lower than we are, California.

I can go to Idaho and get paid three times as much as I can here, which isn't much. I'll give you an example. I've always loved surgery, so I've stayed on the cutting edge in a lot of things, like laparoscopic. Like, I did a hernia the other day that was referred to me from a thoracic surgeon in Salt Lake City because I do this special procedure probably more than anybody. I did the first intra-corporeal hernia repair done with a scope probably in the western states, right here in this hospital many years ago. So, it's something that because I'm interested in it, I stay in it.

Now, if I go take your appendix out, say you get appendicitis, I go take it out, I do it with a scope. I put it in a baggy so I won't contaminate the wall of your abdomen when I take it out.

They charge \$388 for that baggy. I will get paid, if I'm lucky, \$384 for the surgery. So, the baggy is worth more than I am. In other words, the doctor-patient relationship, i.e. holistic medicine, and the administration of health care by physician has shifted. It's not me talking. Just look at the data because that's what you should do.

When I went into medicine, it was the select few, the white collar male. My class had one female in it and she came in under extenuating circumstances. There was no ethnicity. Now, well, ten years ago you would have seen a fifty-fifty mix between female and male. Male, white collar left. Now, females are somewhat exiting the field and you have many foreign-trained doctors. They are well-trained and they're good doctors, but they're from Pakistan and India mostly. That's where your health care is going to come from. That and paramedical people, who are good, too. I'm not saying these aren't good alternatives, but that's the way the demographics have shifted. Most of these people are in programs where they are salaried or they're subsidized somehow, because you can't make it, you can't make it. Not what I do now, you can't make it.

KI: But have you enjoyed your career? Because you've been at it quite a while.

Jim: Oh, sure. Oh, yeah. I love medicine. I love the practice of medicine. At first I went into it, not for the money, obviously, I wanted to be a cowboy. But I think when you're young you want to save the world, you know? Soon you realize that isn't going to happen. Then you even get better as a physician, and then you have a mentor. See, I had great mentors that the doctors today don't get. I had Paul Stringham, Ray Spendlove and T.R. Seager and Bruce Christian. I had four of the greatest mentors you could ever have in health care. I was very fortunate. They taught me not only the practice of medicine, but the empathy and the compassion of medicine. That doesn't happen anymore, unfortunately.

So, it's a different thing, and that saddens me. I spend seventy percent of my time doing "stuff," not taking care of the patient, not interacting with the patient. When I started medicine, you didn't have to take notes, you know. You didn't have to do all this. I had one lady in the front and I had a nurse in the back, that's it. I'm not saying it's not better today, it is in a lot of ways better. I wouldn't go back. But we lost a lot. It doesn't seem like there's any free lunches. For what you gain, you lose, and we lost some things and gained others.

If you look at the statistics in the industrialized world, who do you think is the most satisfied in the industrialized world with their health care? Which nation? Well, it's Germany and Denmark, Sweden.

KI: Which are socialized.

Jim: Right. Everybody's covered from cradle to grave. So, everybody's insured. High eighty percents are very satisfied with their health care, and they spend from six to ten percent of their gross national product for their health care. Now, what industrialized nation is the least satisfied with the health care?

KI: We are.

Jim: Bingo! Exactly. And what do we spend of our gross national product? Up to twenty-eight percent. So, what's wrong with that picture? A lot of things. One of the big things is our expectations as patients. We in the western culture think we should live forever. We just really think we should live forever. We don't realize that this thing's a circle. You go to France and talk to a Frenchman, he'd think you're freakin' nuts, trying to get a bypass after age sixty-five, what's wrong with you? You're not allowing the natural course of life to go on, you know? We're not

that way. So, we have bad expectations. Then, we've got the money aspect of it, especially the litigious part of it.

I billed out \$200,000 in surgery fees, that part of my practice, last year. I got the figures. I got paid \$100,000; my overhead's fifty percent. What did I make for doing surgery last year?

KI: \$50,000.

Jim: No, zero, because I only got fifty percent paid back for what I billed out and it cost me fifty percent [of the total] for overhead, so I made zero. And malpractice premiums doubled this year, from \$20,000 to \$40,000. I will lose \$20,000 this year continuing to do surgery, and that's on the line, cold, hard statistical analysis. So, you know, the way it gets done is groups are formed, there are gatekeepers that are subsidized one way or another, you know, the family practitioners, the people that bring [in the patients], the specialists are willing to share a little bit of the pot with them. The hospital has ways they can share a little bit and help them with service organizations and things. So, that's the way.

But still, in Utah, it's really tough. In California, it's hideous. We tried to recruit in an excellent surgeon here the other day, excellent man, he would have been great. He looked at the figures and stayed right where he's at, which is Twin Falls, Idaho. He said, "I'd have to work twice as hard to make half as much." What's the point of doing that?

KI: I heard the OB-GYN was gone, too.

Jim: Yeah, he's toast, he's gone, and our new surgeon is here today. But see, they bring them in on a contract and that doesn't last, then we lose them. Our retention rate stinks. We get good doctors, but we lose them. So, I don't know. There are a lot of problems throughout the nation.

KI: We turned the tape over, so how about talking about being a cowboy? Tell me why you wanted to be a cowboy and what you did about it.

Jim: Well, when I grew up in Phoenix, I can still remember, I am one of those individuals who has early memory retention, verified. But I can remember the ice wagon with the horse bringing a block of ice to the ice box. They were called iceboxes then, not Frigidaire's. There was no air conditioning; you had a swamp cooler. I can remember that. I loved the horse. Then we had a little place out on Devonshire, eight acres. Actually, our old homestead, where my father was born, was Encanto Park. But, I loved that. Then, like I say, our heroes were cowboys, Gene Autry and all those, so I wanted to grow up like that.

When we moved to Parker, we were in a more rural area and I got involved with ranching there, working on ranches and hauling hay. There was wonderful man there named Bill Langendorf, who had a son who had suffered the use of his left arm with birth. It was a Duchesne palsy that you used to get. In those days when you did a C-section, when you drug babies out, sometimes you tore or broke a nerve. He was abused by the other kids, you know, and I befriended him because I felt sorry for him. They called him 'Hook' and everything, but he was a good friend. His father, Bill, was a very compassionate and nice man. I remember he saved the life one day of a drowning individual.

So, he had an old mare and he let me have her because he knew what my passion was. Plus, I had been 4-H and FFA, which are wonderful programs. They taught me a ton, how to keep books and animal husbandry and responsibility, all the wonderful things those programs do. I was very active in that. In fact, I won the state judging at Yuma County.

Then I was in a calf scramble in Phoenix where Dizzy Dean, the baseball pitcher, threw out the ball. But he was starting a calf scramble, which is where you go out and wrestle a calf to the ground. There's twenty kids and ten calves and if you get to be one of the lucky ones to get

a halter around the calf and drag it across there, then you get to go buy a calf. I bought a calf out of Cody, Wyoming, that then went on to become a reserve champion a year later at the Arizona National. So, I really like my livestock and I learned a lot.

We brought the old mare up here. My dad paid a man named Buck Tackett, who was a friend who had a junk yard in Parker, \$100, and we went in and put a pickup together. We just herded it down the road. But we put a rack on it, because there weren't many horse trailers in those days, and we brought old Tops, that was the mare, and the calf up to Ft. Duchesne. Then when I got up here, of course, I was in hogs' heaven because this was ranching country.

My dad had a friend named Floyd Perry who was an old cowboy out of Lapoint, an old rancher, and I spent many, many, many hours riding with him and taking care of cows and things. So, that's kind of how I got started. Then I started roping and rodeos. We played hooky because our [principal], he was a nice principal at Union, but he wouldn't let us go, so a classmate and I, we took off to go to a rodeo in Manila. It was a high school rodeo supposedly, a junior rodeo. We stayed at the Swett Ranch. Mrs. Arrowsmith was this friend of mine's aunt. So, we got that far the first night, milked the cows, separated the cream and all that, then we went on to Manila to the rodeo. That was before the dam was built. That was probably my first rodeo.

Then, of course, I collected a few horses, had a trail crew. I ran swimming pools and stuff, but I ran this trail crew on the northern slope and the eastern slope. I spent summers up the mountains. The government paid me the fantastic amount of eight dollars a day for each horse and their feed, so it was a good deal for me. Then I became the manager, out of the engineer's office in Wasatch National Forest, and I had a trail crew. Dale van Leuven was one of my crew members. He'd just gotten out of the Marines. This was between '65 and '69. But prior to that I'd done some guiding of dudes on the south slope of the Uintas.

My first trip into the Baldies was [with] Clare Winterton's son, Hal Winterton. He was my age at Union and he trucked us up for a week and I fell in love with that. But then when I came back from medical school, I'd sold my horses and everything because I'd had to really work that year up there, [when I] came back to Roosevelt I wanted to get back in, so I read an ad in the paper. Wayne Workman was a grocer over there and he had a horse for sale. I met him and he's been probably my best friend since. I never did buy the horse, but I got a friend, and I got a horse. I bought a horse, actually, from Woody Searle. But, then I just started competing. I kept competing and got pretty good at it.

KI: Calf roping mostly?

Jim: Yeah, calf roping. My best year, my win average, I only got to go to thirty-five [rodeos], in those days you had to go to about one hundred and eighty to get to the finals. But my win average against those top notch people was good enough I would have made the finals. So, I had to make a choice. I wanted to win the world so bad, and Dixie was very wise, she always has been. She could see that I was just going nuts to go win the world championship. But in order to do that, of course, I had to not practice medicine, and I had a wife and three kids. I can remember, in sheer stupidity, saying to her, "These are my priorities: #1 is medicine; #2 is rodeo; #3 is you and these kids." She did *not* kick me out! She was smarter and she said, "Well, in that case, we'll get a tent and we'll go with you. Go for it." So then, I couldn't blame her. I had to sit down and make a choice, and the choice was I'd rather stay in medicine and be with my family than go down the road, and I've never regretted it. But I still admire her for the wisdom she showed that day because most people would have said, "Hit the road, Bud!" Of course, my priorities aren't that way at all anymore. My number one priority is my wife and family.

KI: That was the right answer!

Jim: Yeah, it took me a while.

KI: Where did you compete?

Jim: I went everywhere. I was from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. We had a Buick Electra Special Edition; the car was a foot longer than today's Suburban's, big engine. We put a two-horse trailer on it and, I mean, we'd hit the road. One time we left here and I hit a rodeo in Idaho Falls, Idaho, then I had a calf in Omak, Washington, six hundred miles away, that morning, roped it, turned around and came back and hit the second calf in Idaho Falls because I placed on the first, turned around and got the second calf in Omak, then pulled over and got on a ferry and went to Bremerton, Washington, roped a calf there in rain and mud, turned around and came down and hit Kennewick, Walla Walla, and back home. Four days. We put on I don't know how many thousands of miles, didn't sleep, just drove, drove, drove. But it was good because things were so hard and hammering down here and Paul was so good to cover when I'd go that I'd just love it, get away from the phone. So, I roped in the Forum in Los Angeles; I've roped in the National Western in Denver, Fort Worth, Texas. You know, I spent all my money, but I wouldn't trade a minute of it. It was a wonderful time.

I think that's where that "Freak of the Week" stuff got started, where I got run up the flag pole on a national level, being in all those, you know, the *Today Show* with Bob Dotson, and they can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, I'll tell you. Then they did that special on PBS. That was neat.

KI: That was with a sports commentator?

Jim: It was called *The Sporting Life*. Actually, it was two women, from Chicago, you know, the PBS station there, and they were doing a series called *The Sporting Life*, and it was half hour series. It actually started with my segment because they thought it was the best. But there was myself, Eddie Arcaro, Catfish Hunter. I mean, there was some pretty [big names]. They were here for a week and Jim Palmer, he spent a week. We sat and talked day and night. I never asked him to autograph a baseball; I wish I had now because I've got a son-in-law that just would strangle me. But that just wasn't what [we were doing]. He was going through a troubled time right then because he had just retired and he still had the fire. He'd gone through a divorce with his wife, who he'd married when she was a teenager, and he was lost. So, we spent a lot of time. I enjoyed Jim's company.

I'd come down to the hospital and say, "Jim Palmer's at my house." And the nurse would say, "Who's that?" And I'd say, "He's that guy that advertises Jockey shorts." "Oh, that Jim Palmer!" they'd say. So, they'd send home their panties with me to have him autograph them; they'd go down and buy some Jockey panties. So, I got a lot of panties autographed by Jim, but I never did have him autograph a baseball for me. But that was a neat segment. They did that.

Then I was on the *Today Show*. I was on *What's My Line*. They flew me back to the Helmsley Palace, when it was the Helmsley Palace.

KI: Where's that?

Jim: Right in New York City, right in the canyons there. She got sent up for tax evasion or whatever, but she was running that, the lady. I was really a fish out of water. I had never been in such a fancy place. I thought, "Somebody has forgot their toothbrush and cologne." I went downstairs in the evening and I walked out on the street and I looked off to my right and there was a crowd there. So, I went over to see what it was and it John Lennon had just been shot down. The guy had killed him. His brownstone was just a couple doors down.

KI: So, did they guess your line?

Jim: No, they didn't. Tom Seaver was there, another famous baseball pitcher, Soupy Sales, I can't remember the other guests, they were all very nice people. I met Miss Universe, or Miss America, I can't remember, I got to meet her, and the world champion cow chip thrower was there. The world's fastest novelist was there and some other people. It was a neat experience.

KI: You have quite the varied background.

Jim: Yeah, PRCA, there's a lot of intermixing between that and the entertainment industry because a lot of the stunt doubles, Yakima Canuck, for example, the premier start man, he was a rodeo man. But a lot of the rodeo people, in fact, still a lot of my friends, are working in [entertainment]. When they were doing that movie [Chill Factor, filmed in the Vernal area], they called me up to see the star. He was up there below the dam, they needed a doctor to look at him or something. I came down and went up here where they were filming in Dry Fork, it was there at Scotty's ranch, Scotty Massey's ranch, and I ran into the guy who was the stunt director and he was an old cowboy friend of mine. We sat there and spent two or three hours chatting with each other.

There are movie people who rope: James Caan; the guy from CHiPS, I've forgotten his name now; Wilford Brimley is a very good friend of mine. In fact, I sold him what he claims is the best roping horse he ever owned; he bought it from me. Wilford and I go back, way back. So, you meet a lot of those kind of people, you know.

KI: Tell me about your involvement in getting the Outlaw Rodeo here.

Jim: Well, I was sitting at home and I got a call from Mrs. Gardner, who owned the Bull Ring at that time. She called and said, "You know, Doc, I know you're a professional rodeo cowboy and the rodeo's finished. It's in debt, and it's over. Can we revive it? What can we do?" I didn't want to put on a rodeo.

KI: Please back up for a minute, for my sake. They already had a different rodeo coming in here, that's the one you're talking about as being finished?

Jim: No, we've had a rodeo here for a long, long, long, long time. Rodeo, even up until just lately, was the number one spectator sport in the nation. You'd think it would be baseball, wouldn't you? But in those days, when we were an agricultural society, everybody had a rodeo. They went to the fair and the rodeo. So, it's a traditional thing. It's been in our community for a long, long time.

KI: Well, I knew that, but unofficially, without any official auspices, wasn't it?

Jim: Well, it became an RCA, which is what I joined. I joined the RCA, which is the Rodeo Cowboys' Association. Then that got changed to the PRCA when Bob Ragsdale went in as president. He had a college education and he went in and he said, "We need to trademark this and bring it up." So, he changed it to PRCA and we've had a PRCA or RCA rodeo in this community for a long time, a long, long time.

KI: Okay, thanks.

Jim: Casey Tibbs rode down here in our RCA, and some of the old greats. So, she called and says, "What can we do?" And I said, "Well, you need to get a sponsoring organization. Let's ask the community." So, we did and the Lions Club said they'd do it and the Chamber of Commerce said they'd do it. And Nettie Hale was involved, she actually worked for White River Shale. Then she went on to work for Chamber of Commerce for Fort Collins and she still lives over there. Her husband, Bill, was a calf roper. So, I said, "Nettie, call Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and ask them what that rodeo does for them." Well, it just lit her up. So, we said, "Okay, we're going to go with the Chamber of Commerce." And it was just the right time, timing was important.

KI: When was this?

Jim: This was when the signs were going around: "The last one out, turn out the lights." The oil shale had busted.

KI: Early '80s.

Jim: Yeah, we were in big trouble, you know. We'd had a big boom and then a big bust. So, people were disillusioned. The community was ripe to come together, you know, and unite over anything that would have helped. So, with the Chamber I had all the expertise I needed. I selected Judge Steele, who was a lawyer then, got him to do the legal work and we drew up the document. Subsequently, John Beaslin served there. We got a marketer, got an insurance person. All the particular expertise that you'd need to have a successful business I had for free, that came in, you know. So, we set this thing on its wheels and it just took off because everybody wanted it.

There are seven ways to make money with a rodeo. I went to school on it and some conventions and stuff. Then the Snake River Stampede group, up in Nampa [Idaho], had been a very successful rodeo committee, as had Pendleton, as had Calgary. I studied what they'd done. It was wonderful. I think \$180,000 was our budget and we had \$130,000 in reserve when I left the rodeo committee.

I left mainly because my vision and theirs had split the ways. It wasn't a bitter thing. I still help them. In fact, I'm going to help them down here this year. But we had gotten to the level where we needed to move to the next tier and they didn't want to. They wanted to stay where they were at, and there's nothing wrong with that. So, that's when I ended doing that. But it was a great period of time. And it was community service. We tried to stay focused on the fact we're not trying to make the best rodeo in the world, we're trying to serve our community, type thing. It's kind of waxed and waned. There's things I'd do a ton different if I were still involved, but I certainly admire what they're doing today.

KI: It's really probably the biggest event here.

Jim: It's the largest entertainment event in the Uinta Basin. It's in the top thirty for entertainment quality in the nation. Rodeo's kind of been that way. There's been people in and out of rodeo that you wouldn't guess, like Malcolm Baldrige. Malcolm was Fortune 500, I mean top ten in the nation. This guy was really sharp. Malcolm liked to team rope. So, the PRCA, the first year they got in, with Bob Ragsdale, who was a college graduate, because the old image of the rodeo cowboys was just a redneck, beer-drinking, carousing, tobacco-chewing rough guy, well, that's all changed, they're athletes, college education. So, he hired Malcolm to get the PRCA on its wheels. He brought in three and half million dollars that year in sponsors and television royalties, Malcolm did. But they fired him, because he wouldn't take a taxicab from the Denver

airport to the meetings. See, they have meetings at Denver every January, then you have another meeting in Las Vegas. In those days it was in Oklahoma City. But that was the redneck component.

KI: Did Malcolm want a limo?

Jim: Well, yeah, I mean the guy's a Fortune 500, top ten, he brings in three million dollars. Guess who hired him? Reagan. He became our Secretary of Commerce for the United States of America. He wasn't good enough for the PRCA, but he sure was for the country. So, rodeo is kind of funny, it's an eclectic group. They're very independent. The sport, that's what I love about the sport, you live and die by your own wits. You don't have these big sponsors; you've not got the Nike deal on you. It's getting more and more that way now, and that's okay, too, I guess, because you can make living. I made the statement the other day, I'm actually making more net profit roping on the weekends than I am being a doctor during the week, and that's a sad scenario because I'm not roping as good as I used to.

KI: But you've never given it up? You haven't stopped roping?

Jim: No, it's still my love, yeah. I'll rope when I leave here; I roped last night. We're getting ready for a big roping in South Jordan. We'll go out there Friday.

KI: Who's we?

Jim: My son's a very, very good roper. He made the same choice I did. He had to decide whether to stay home and raise a family or go be famous, because he certainly could be. He's a very gifted roper, but he made the choice to stay. So, he and I rope together, but he's twice as good as I am. In the ranking system, he's a six, I'm a three now.

KI: You don't ever mind that, do you, that your kid is better?

Jim: No, not at all, no.

KI: Tell me about your children.

Jim: Well, I've been very fortunate. All my children have married very well. I love all their spouses.

KI: Tell me their names.

Jim: Cassie Jo is my oldest, she's now in her thirties. She married Cory Hayes, who is actually a very talented professional soccer player. And he gave up. He could have gone to Italy. He had a lucrative contract there, but decided no, he'd stay home and live in Vernal. She married a very nice young man, and they have two children, two boys, Toby and Teddy. Cassie got her degree in education.

Two of my children wanted to go into medicine. I tried to dissuade them because it's a great thing, but... One of them still persisted. But the others, I said, "Go where your mother's going. You won't make a lot of money, but you'll do meaningful work and when it's all over, you'll look back and say, 'I made a difference.'" So, Cassie got her degree in education and she taught at the high school. Then when she got pregnant, she stayed home and took care of the kids and hasn't gone back yet.

My second daughter did the same, Brandi Lee, and she was thirteen months behind Cassie. She was born in Roosevelt. She married a very nice fellow and they have three kids. He started in banking and then he went into computer stuff. Right now, he does a lot of heavy duty computer stuff for the University of Utah.

KI: Do they live in Salt Lake?

Jim: Yeah, and they have three kids, two boys and a girl. Then I have my third, my boy, Cricket. Well, he's James Jr., which, you should never name your child after yourself. They need their own identity. But we call him Cricket. He is very gifted with horses and with roping and with horse shoeing. I used to shoe horses a lot, to make a buck, I ran trap line, shoed horses, did everything I could, and Cricket can shoe horses unbelievably well. His wife is super. She is the former Sherri Marshall.

KI: He lives here?

Jim: He lives here. He helps run the ranch, shoes horses and ropes. Then my youngest is Kay Dee, she was here nursing today. She's got her LPN and she's going to get her RN. She married Matt Massey, who's a great guy. I've just been very fortunate in who my kids have married. They don't have children yet, they've been married two years, three years. She was going to finish [her RN] this summer, but I said, "Honey, don't do what I did." I spent a year in Seattle where I could have had such a wonderful time and I just [didn't]. My family suffered for it. Dixie was there and had just had Cassie and we could have had a good time, but instead I just worked, worked, worked. So, that's the kids.

KI: Please tell me some of your other community involvements. You've always been a member of the Chamber of Commerce, right?

Jim: Right. I believe, like Mohammed Ali said, "Your community service is just the rent you pay for the space you take up." I don't know if he said it that way, but essentially that was the meaning. You really do owe it to your community to do community service. And communities live and die by that. You can tell a good community, with people who are active in doing things. I noticed when I took KayDee over to Colorado State, she did two years of equine science before she went into nursing, they require them at Colorado State to do every quarter a segment of community service. They were given various venues they could do it in, but they had to do it. It was part of the curriculum, which impressed me. I really liked that.

Paul Stringham talked me into going into Rotary. I joined Chamber. I got to be president of that one year. Then, I've been involved, of course, with the rodeo, that was a big time consumer in community service. I used to teach a lot of the youth in rodeo and roping, those were some real good experiences there, which you can't do anymore because of the litigious nature of our society. If you take a youth and teach them, you're cooked. You can't do it because of the Navajo Trails decision. Parents don't have the right to sign a waiver for their kids. So, if they get hurt, they turn around and sue you. So, a lot has been destroyed there. I would still love to do that. I love to teach. I'm teaching right now. I'm teaching the sport of rodeo, how to rope.

There's a basic credo there that you see as a thread running through our society. In fact, Jim Palmer, if you could get that segment, we discussed this on national television about "why do you do what you do, Doctor? You're a surgeon. You've jerked two of your fingers off, deformed a couple others. You put a cow manure-stained pigging string in your mouth and you throw a bovine on its side, tie its legs. Why do you do this?" They really wanted to know. I said,

"Because it's the only place, now, that I know that I can go and really practice honor and integrity. There's no other place that I can find where I can do that this way. If I want to enter a rodeo, I enter it. But if I enter a rodeo, I live up to a creed. You help each other. You're helping the guy beat you, and you do it willingly and he does the same for you, or she does."

I think you see that occur if you look at the way our media is now starting to shift a little bit, if you look at what's coming out, like *The Last Samurai*, that embodies that spirit, who's the samurai, and it really happened. They've got a statue to the guy in Japan. But he really believed in that creed to the point that he self-destructed. If you look at this latest show, *Open Range*, for example, and there's another friend, [Robert] Duvall, he's a tremendous actor. I met him with Wilford in Kamas. But that's the theme of that. The theme of it is: you do what's right. Harry Truman probably embodied that more than anyone, well, as one of our presidents. Harry really did what he thought was right no matter what anybody else said. You have to respect that and I think in this sport, that's what you're doing. You're having respect and love for the animals you're working with, you husband them, you take care of them. I've always had a love affair with the horse, and I think it must be genetic. You have to be predisposed. Somewhere back there in the Darwinian evolution of mankind, there was a certain segment that really cleaved to the horse for some reason.

A lot of the spirit of life is embodied in that venue that I seek. It's not being a hero. It's not being macho. It's not that at all. It's not a John Wayne thing at all. That's not what I'm talking about. I read a thing by Baxter Black the other day that sort of said the sad part of our society today [is] the fact that we've urbanized to the point that you can't go out there and help a heifer birth a calf, and then see the calf there not breathe, and get the sack off its mouth, and give it some mouth-to-mouth, do everything you can, then watch it finally take a breath, and watch it shake and stand up, and see life that way. Then ride over the next ridge and find a cow in a bog, that's died, that magpies have picked the meat out of while it was still trying to throw its head trying to get rid of them. All of the pathos of life is there. It's so easy; it's just right there. But we've lost a lot of that.

That's what I meant about our expectations as a society for our health care is a little skewed. I'm not saying that we should lie down and not try and advance; I think eventually we will have the fountain of youth. It's right there; it's that far away from us right now. We know genetically where it's at and how to get it. It's just, what do we do once we get a hold of it? Then you kind of look back and say, "Maybe this plan was here for a reason. It's a plan of progression." There's just lots of things that you can philosophize about. Jim Palmer and I sat there philosophizing.

KI: How can I get a copy of that?

Jim: Well, I have them, but KayDee, when she was a little girl, copied cartoons over about half of them. I've got segments of them. I tried to get them copied at Inkleys but they can't copy them because of copyright laws. They are really owned by *The Today Show* and owned by PBS Chicago, *The Sporting Life*.

KI: I wonder if could get hold of *The Today Show* or *Sporting Life*.

Jim: You know, that baby I delivered, I think the lady has a tape, I'm not sure. That baby is now fifteen years old. I have some segments of that. In the PBS one, they get into depth, and it was fun. When I was going, for example, down to the El Dorado Days, in Vegas, it's a rodeo in May, I had a little Palomino mare I was hauling. This crew followed me everywhere. So, I go down to this rodeo and these two ladies are running the show and, believe me, those camera people work hard. I can't believe how hard those people work. They get up early and go at it. We get

down there and I duck into a 7-11 and buy a box of tampons and put them in my rope can. These ladies are kind of looking at me, and I don't say anything. I just put my tampons in my rope can.

I get over to the convention center. That's where the rodeo was in those days, the Thomas Mack hadn't been built yet, and they couldn't stand it. They said, "What's that?" I said, "It's just part of my roping equipment." So, I let them stew on that for a while.

Of course, what it is some horses don't work well indoors. There are building horses and outdoor horses and there are some that do both, but if you've got a horse that doesn't like the band, you've got a band right there blaring at you, you've got crowds just roaring. For some horses, that's unnerving. This little Palomino was that way. So, what you do is plug their ears with tampons. Because you've got a little string here that you can get it out. Because a horse doesn't like you messing around with their ears, see. So, I go in and I rope and I ride out and they're there and here are these strings hanging out of the horse's ears.

It was six months after they'd aired the series and stuff, I get this beautiful framed picture of a Palomino horse and they've doctored it up; they have these strings hanging out of its ears and a thank you note. So, stuff like that happens to you in rodeo. It's just so neat, memories like that.

I can remember a story. We used to be crazy to rope, and there was no place to rope out here in the winter. You'd just go nuts. Somebody would have a little tin can barn somewhere and you'd go there. One of those places was a place in Payson, Utah. A guy named Wayne Brown, who was a plumber, built this shed that we could rope in. So, we go down there and in the corner was a huge wooden hearth kind of thing where they threw wood and had a flume, you know, to keep you warm while you were roping. Of course, there was always somebody in there with cards or else with dice, shooting craps and things that go on, these gaming deals. Because that's what you're doing when you rope, you're gambling on your skills, it's a gamble.

There was some old characters there that I just dearly love, one of them is still alive today. But there was these two that always were together. One of them was an uncle to a world champion team roper, actually, and a good team roper himself. He's about seventy. He had a one-eyed partner. For the sake of conversation, we'll say that this one-eyed partner's name was Tom, and we'll say Bill was the other, to protect their identities. So, they were shooting craps, you know, hoo-rahing, having a good time like we used to do at those things. Then the next time I went out, drove clear out to Payson, you know, snowy roads, got there, well, here's Bill and no Tom, and I had seen them together at these roping's for a couple, three years. So, I said to Bill, "Where's Tom?" I was worried that maybe he'd befallen some bad fate. He said, "Well, he's down there in the hospital with a broken leg." I said, "Well, for heaven's sakes, how did Tom break his leg? I saw him leave here, he was fine." "No," he says, "we moved the crap game down to the motel in Lehi, and we kind of got into our cups a little bit. We were on the second floor of the motel and Tom got out there and got up on the railing and said he could fly. He was flapping his arms and says, 'I can fly.' Right off of here down onto that ground." He says, "You know that blankety, blanking idiot, he tried it!" I says, "Why on earth did you let your best friend try to fly off the second story balcony?" He says, "Try? I had ten bucks bet on him!"

Then one time we were over at Hilltop. Well, they used to have a roping arena over there, it's still there, and we were roping. We had this one roper that tends to use the wacky tobacky. It's not a thing that many cowboys do, they don't like drugs, but this one did. As a result, the brain doesn't work quite as well. So, you get called to come, so-and-so is in the hole, so-and-so is up on deck. So, this individual was notorious for being late because this individual would be out in the bushes somewhere. We'll say his name is Sam.

A local cowboy, that's an old salty friend of mine here, was there roping and he's got a wry wit, just flat delivery, but a wry wit. So, they're calling for Sam. "Sam, you're up! Where are you? Doggone, where's Sam?" So, here comes Sam. He comes riding in, full-tilt like he always

does because he's late. What he had done was, he sat out there smoking this joint and because he didn't want to waste it, got the call, so he put it in his hatband. But he had failed to fully extinguish it, so his hat was on fire. So, he rode flaming in here. We'll say Bud for the sake of protecting; he rode up to him and said, "Sam, you're hats on fire." And I about fell off my horse, just the way that interchange occurred.

So, those sort of things happen in rodeo. It's fun. I had another one. I can tell you these stories all night. These people are still around here. One of them was a tough guy, John Wayne guy. He was tough, really tough, and a pretty good hand. But, you know, just macho, a thousand percent. Well, again, we were up in a little tin can up in Mountain View, Wyoming, and my good friend Wayne, that I'd met over here, was with me and this individual. We'd got up there and we'd roped, but Wayne and I had to get back to a Rotary party because we were going to take our wives to the Rotary party, because we used to dance and stuff. So, we had to leave early. Well, we'll say Cowboy Bill says, "Well, I'm done here, too. I'm goin' with you." "Okay, hop on." We pull into the junction there at Mountain View, because this was actually a little ways out, in a little town, and we stopped to gas. We go in and he's hungry, it's suppertime. Well, we're going to get dinner down at the Rotary, so he's getting him something to eat. Well, here's these hot links, the really hot things in the jars. He says, "You guys like these?" Wayne says, "Oh, no, man, they give me heartburn." "Oh, you big wussy," he says. "Men eat these kinds of foods." So, he gets this food and eats it.

Well, then we get going up the hill, there's lots of snow on the ground and we have to stop—because everybody's had a soda pop and stuff—on side of the road, then we get back in. We're going maybe another ten miles, then all of a sudden, this guy just goes nuts. He uses a few expletives, but he says, "Stop this blankety, blank rig!" We didn't know what was wrong. We slam on the brakes, pull to the side. He bolts out over the top of me, runs right into a big snowdrift, pulls his pants down, grabs a bunch of snow, shoves it onto his, you know, unit, and says, "Whshsh," like that. I say, "Have you gone totally crazy?" He says, "By God, I've been taught to weather pain, but this is more than any man can tolerate."

What he'd done was handle those hot chilies, then when he'd gone to the bathroom, he'd inoculated himself. I mean, I thought he was going to die. We had to stop about every ten miles and get another wad of snow and put it in this guy's pants. Finally, we got to Vernal and the thing had subsided. I thought I was going to have to treat him for frostbite.

So, those are some of the stories you were looking for.

KI: Yeah, they are! Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

Jim: Well, service to your community. Like I say, I try to stay involved in things. Sometimes, you get so busy with the medicine that you can't, but I really think that's important. I've tried to instill that in my kids. The rodeo thing, one time I went out to my barn, this was before all this horrible litigious crap was as bad as it is now. I went out there and here in my sleeper camper, I had a little shell there, a kid comes crawling out, a red-haired, gangly looking hippie. This was back when they had long hair. They weren't body piercing then, but this was the whole bit, and he comes out of there. I look at him and he says, "Can I live in this camper shell?" This is a kid, he's a teenager. I said, "Well, no, you can't live in that, but tell me your story." He says, well, he'd run away from home. Actually, his family lived right here, but he just couldn't get along. You know how teenage rebellion is.

I said, "Well, let's go in the house and call your folks." We went in and called them. They said, "Well, can you do anything with him, Doc? We can't." I said, "Yeah, he can stay here for a while." So, then I turned to him and said, "Okay, you want to stay here for a while, these are the rules. You've got to do the chores, earn your keep, there's a room, that's your bed. We'll give

you your room and board, but for that you [work]." I took him out, and, of course, he didn't know [anything about a farm].

We'll he does this for about a month. Of course, I'm really practicing my roping. We do a lot of what they call flanking and tying, which is in the barn. In the winter you throw a calf and tie its legs so it becomes muscle memory, the things you're doing in a professional way. So, we were doing a lot of this and he gets to watching that. Pretty soon I see the sandals go, he's got a pair of boots. Then the beard's off and the hair gets cut. Now, he's got to try a cowboy hat on. So, I see this metamorphosis occurring. Finally, he says to me, "Doc, can you teach me how to do that?" And I say, "Sure." So, we teach him.

He's a gangly, clumsy kid, but we get him to where [he can do it]. I have an old horse that I sold and bought four times doing this, every time I did it. I said, "Here's a horse you can ride, if you really want to do this." "How much?" "Five hundred, we'll work a deal out." So, he earned the horse. Then came the high school rodeo, here in Vernal. He entered. He won the calf roping, got the buckle. His name was Bob Haight. The kids came up to me and said, "We know Bob Haight. That's not Bob Haight." No, that's Bob Haight.

He went on and had a wonderful time that year. He went back to his folks, came down and roped with his horse, then he met a girl, sold the horse to buy a car, and I don't think he's ever swung a leg over a horse since. He came back and saw Dixie and I, oh, ten, fifteen years later.

KI: Thank you so much for sharing these stories with us today. I've really enjoyed talking to you.